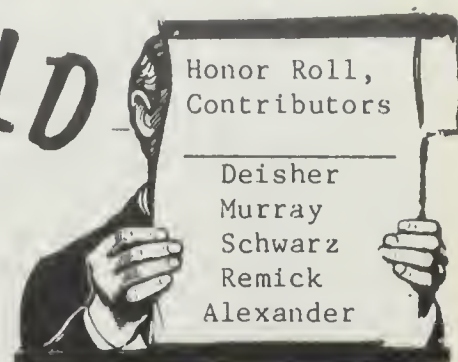




NUMISMATIC LITERARY GUILD Newsletter

MAY - JUNE, 1985

Volume 18, Number 3



>>>> THE 1985 "BASH" <<<<

by Donn Pearlman, NLG

What do you have in common with Robert J. Leuver, director of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing? Or with American Numismatic Association president Q. David Bowers, NLG Treasurer Chuck O'Donnell, and award-winning authors Ed Reiter (New York Times), Scott Travers, Col. Bill Murray, Walter Breen?

All the above numismatic dignitaries have indicated they will be active participants in this year's NLG Bash - scheduled for 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, during the ANA convention at the Baltimore Convention Center (room 307).

Why don't YOU consider a role in this year's Bash? You'll be in distinguished company!

As Master of Ceremonies for the Baltimore Bash, I hereby extend a friendly invitation for you to entertain. A skit, a song, a little dancing, or what-have-you.

Individual and group skits and presentations should run between 3 and 5 minutes in length. This is your chance to show your stuff!

Drop me a quickie note about your offerings, or give me a call. I'll be happy to add your name(s) to the Cast.

Donn Pearlman, P.O. Box 750, Skokie, IL 60076. Weekdays 312-951-3822 (I'm pretty busy between 10:30 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. Chicago time, but you can call any time before or after those hours and I usually have ample time to chat.)

>>> THE DIRECTOR'S DESK <<<

by David T. Alexander, NLG

There are those who say summer is off season for the numismatic world. They cannot mean NLG members whose summers have always been a time of peak activity, with the annual writers' competition under way, elections in the offing and planning at fever pitch for the annual Bash and Symposium.

All Guild members in good standing (that is, those whose 1985 dues have been paid) by now will have received the rules for the 1985 writers' competition. If your dues are paid but you have not yet received this four-page booklet, contact me immediately at P.O. Box 970218, Miami, FL 33197. Deadline for submissions will be based on postmarks; any entries postmarked through July 1 are eligible. Overseas members had theirs this year by airmail.

Elections will also be served by a separate mailing. Any NLG member is eligible to seek a Board seat, providing he or she submits three written nominations from others in good standing. All candidate names will appear on a mail ballot, limited specifically to candidates meeting the 3-nomination requirement, and who express willingness to serve if elected. Please rush me any such nominations by mid-July!

Election results will be announced at the NLG Bash in Baltimore on Thursday, August 22, at 9:30 p.m., in room 307 of the Convention Center.

At the Bash, emcee Donn Pearlman is planning as many surprises as he will

have active participants! Donn's yeoman work at New Orleans and Detroit, plus his vital role at other Bashes will encourage others to excel this year.

The list of NLG collectibles is growing again. Member Sally Kirka of Manchester, CT, has donated an elongated cent for use as your Bash ticket of admission this year. Dottie Dow, Lee Martin and others have provided such pieces in the past, and Sally continues the tradition. Tickets can be acquired at ANA from the executive director. Her design is the first appearance of the NLG logo, as refined by Brooklyn's Nate Sobel, in elongated form.

Carl W. A. Carlson again moderates the annual NLG Writers & Editors Symposium, set for Wednesday, Aug. 22 in room 312 of the Baltimore Convention Center. This year's subject is "Numismatic Photography," continuing Carl's in-depth exploration of the inner workings of numismatic publishing.

Taking part with moderator Carlson will be Tom Mulvaney, Jack Collins, George DeWolfe and (through Carlson) noted photographer Larry Stevens. A multimedia presentation offering the best on this vital subject should make this symposium historic. I believe this year offers a real opportunity for all writers aware that in numismatic publishing, a picture is worth a thousand words to the 10th power. Plan to come!

Editor Russ Rulau recently arranged publicity in the numismatic press about our Guild, its membership and requirements for membership. Our thanks go to the weeklies which ran this reminder of NLG activities. There has been a very spirited response by those wishing further information or membership applications, or posing questions on what the NLG is and what it does. Those of us with years of NLG experience are always encouraged to see these perceptions of what NLG is, or can be - perceptions by the reading and writing hobby public which shows where the Guild's path must lead.

The quality of new members has been high over the three years I have served as executive director. I always get a lift and a confidence increase in the Guild's future when I consider the high morale these new inductees bring.

In recent months we have been offered a fair amount of advice on improving the NLG - including some role for the Guild in fostering writers and encouraging those who might want to try writing in the numismatic field. So far no specifics on just how to bring this about have been offered.

The ANA seminars for YN's and for ANACS may provide a clue. NLG could launch a miniseries of seminars at strategic locations such as (strictly for instance): State College, PA; Pomona, CA, or Atlanta, GA. Would our uplifters volunteer to help out such series as hosts, coordinators, instructors or other support persons? Can we gain the needed support to attempt it? What do you think?



David Thomason Alexander
Executive Director, NLG

NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN NEEDS HELP!

Marvin Fraley, veteran editor of the Numismatics International Bulletin, has indicated to the board of governors that he must relinquish his editorial duties later this year due to his increasing business responsibilities.

In preparation for replacing Fraley, the board is investigating new ways of editing and compiling the NI Bulletin and they are seeking volunteers.

In a recent open letter to the worldwide membership of the Dallas, Texas-based association, the board asked any member interested in working on the prestigious magazine to contact them at: Numismatics International, P. O. Box 670013, Dallas, TX 75367.

They especially want writers who have their own word processor or computer, complete with printer. Board members are grateful to Fraley for his many years of devoted service to the magazine.

32-YEAR CHART OF MEXICO'S PESO DEVALUATIONS, 1954 THROUGH 1985

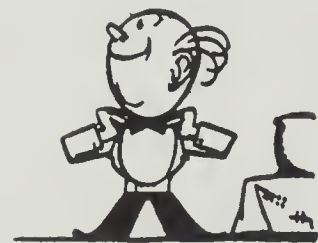
Mexican peso valuation 1954-1985		
Year	Date	Rate (pesos per dollar)
1954	April 17	From 8.65:1 to 12.5:1 (peso devaluation)
1976	Aug. 31	20:1 (peso devaluation — "flotation")
	Oct. 26	28:1 (peso devaluation — "flotation")
1977		22.5:1 (Peso maintained at this rate through 1980 by Mexico's central bank)
1981	January	22.5:1 (Peso allowed to decline gradually through a "controlled downway float")
1982	Feb. 17	28:1
	Feb. 18	37-38:1 (Peso devaluation, Mexico's central bank withdrew support and "floated" peso)
	March 2	45:1
	Aug. 5	49.5:1 (Introduction of a two-tier exchange rate with a preferential rate of 49.5 pesos per dollar for government transactions, essential imports and repayment of earlier dollar debts and a market rate for all other transactions)
	Aug. 6	61.25:1 (Peso devaluation — peso again allowed to "float" to find market rate)
	Sept. 1	Banks nationalized, remain closed — no rate. Extension of exchange controls to cover all foreign exchange dollars.
	Sept. 6	49.5:1 Preferential rate — government transactions and crucial imports 70:1 Commercial or free market rate — all private transactions; exports, tourism and nonessential imports
	Dec. 20	70:1 Controlled rate — domestic debt 95:1 Controlled rate — favored trade 145:1 Free market exchange rate Peso allowed to "float" again on world market to find its own level
1983	June 30	148:1
	Sept. 22	Gradual predetermined devaluation of controlled rate — peso allowed to depreciate at a rate of 13 centavos per day
1984	May 11	180:1 Controlled rate 205:1 Free market rate
	Dec. 5	188:1 Controlled rate 205:1 Free market rate Gradual depreciation of controlled rate accelerated to 17 centavos per day
1985	February	226:1 Free market rate
	March 6	Gradual depreciation of controlled rate accelerated to 21 centavos per day 235:1 Free market rate

Source: San Diego Economic Bulletin

The chart at left originally was printed in the San Diego Economic Bulletin. We thought it so valuable to numismatic writers that we've printed it here for all NLG members to share.

Finding the obscure facts to do a real thorough coin story is a constant: Difficult!

(Gratitude to Ruth T. Carson of San Diego)





>> WRITER-READERS RESPOND <<

Letters to the editor from
(who else?) editors

I was very distressed to read in the March-April issue of all the members dropped because of non-payment of dues - several sponsored by myself.

It's the only thing to do, but it is sad, as these are, in the majority, fine authors.

The writeup on NLG medal die availability was good. The size of each medal is 38mm.

I now have 22 issues of my own store cards (including those with ANA, CNA, NLG, TAMS, WPNA and other logos) and, though I lose money on each one, I'll be happy to send one - bronze, gold- or silver-plated, to any NLG member for U.S. \$2 postpaid. Members may ask for the entire listing, if they wish.

Jerome H. Remick
Box 9183
Ste-Foy, P.Q.
Canada G1V 4B1

Thank you for them kind words in the NLG periodical ("Russian Society journal seizes high ground of scholarly appeal," March-April issue).

They're worth more, coming from you, than from almost anyone else I can think of.

Randolph Zander
Alexandria, VA



Congratulations on the last Newsletter. Beautiful!

Looking forward to the next, with the Margo Russell article - Margo always one of my favorite folks!

Chuck O'Donnell
Williamstown, NJ

I read with alarm the list of those who have not paid dues (March-April issue). Some of those members are important to us. I hope they have just forgotten, as I often do until reminded.

On the other hand I hope our board of directors maintains the standards for membership. Nominees, I believe, should be published writers, editors in place when nominated, and active publishers.

Spring has sprung. Whippoorwills serenade nightly; humming birds hover at the feeders; we're picking strawberries now, cherries are due; in about two weeks we'll look forward to the first dewberry cobbler. The Ozarks are especially beautiful now.

Col. Bill Murray
Ozone, AR

Just read the palindromes that you listed in the last NLG Newsletter. These were one-word palindromes, but how about a few phrases?

A man, a plan, a canal ... Panama.

Madam, I'm Adam ...

Never odd or even.

The Newsletter is great!

Barbara R. Hyde
Santa Ana, CA

I won't be at the NLG Bash this year but I'm sure it will be a real winner. I do miss the fun, but time and distance make it impossible to attend.

Lee Martin
Beaumont, CA

ROUND AND ABOUT THE GUILD

Doings of the Do-ers

Hyperactive NLG member Ted Schwarz, of Flagstaff, Arizona, is "ghosting" the autobiography of controversial auto magnate John Z. DeLorean, which takes him frequently to Los Angeles - but at the same time he travels frequently to Pittsburgh to do the story of the liver transplant team at Children's Hospital, and is rushing to meet deadlines on a photography book he's writing. Oh yes, he also teaches professional writing at a college.

Like other busy Guildites, he makes time to pen prose for the NLG Newsletter, though.

"Numismatic Eagle" is the title of the monthly house organ of Numismatic Investments of Florida, Miami, begun in 1977, which was resurrected with the April 1985 issue by new editor David T. Alexander. The newsletter presents market news, reports on NIOF activities, and numismatic offerings, all offered with the tastefulness that has become an Alexander hallmark.

For a sample copy, write: Numismatic Eagle, 799 Brickell Plaza, Miami, FL 33131.

J. A. Haxby and R. C. Willey have co-authored the new 6th edition of "Coins of Canada," delayed from its original publication date in October, 1984 due to the addition of much new material. The compact price guide costs \$4.95 postpaid from: Unitrade Press, 127 Cartwright Ave., Toronto, Canada M6A 1V4.

Editor Ted Uhl continues to impress with his publications for the International Bank Note Society. One of them, "Inside IBNS," a special newsletter for members, sparkles with up-to-the-minute coverage of the field, while the "IBNS Journal" is a

scholarly magazine of lasting value. For membership information in IBNS, write: Milan Alusic, general secretary, P.O. Box 1222, Racine, WI 53405.

Mail addressed to NLG member Thomas V. Haney in Wharton, New Jersey is being returned as "unknown." Can any Guild member assist the Executive

Director in locating him?

A handsome new business card embossed with a golden representation of the Panama-Pacific \$50 coin is now in use by NLG member Anthony Swiatek.

A new magazine begun in England by the Pobjoy Mint in 1984, has just been made available to North Americans. The spring 1985 issue of "Pobjoy Priority Collector News" is sent free to all customers of the mint or its agencies. The 24-page issue introduces the 1985 Christmas coin of the Isle of Man and a silver "gift" halfpenny of that issuer, Angel bezels and jewelry, and a custom minting service.

For a free sample copy, write: Pobjoy Mint, P.O. Box 12688, Dallas, TX 75225, or Pobjoy Mint, Freepost 566, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1BR, England.

NLG member Richard Bagg has moved from Boston to Brooklyn, he reports. Other members wishing to contact him may write him at 163 Joralemon St., Suite 1488, Brooklyn, NY 11201-4301.

One of the best-attended coin shows in many months was the Long Beach Coin & Stamp Expo in Long Beach, Calif., May 30-June 2. It takes many visitors to keep 400 dealers happy, but that's just what happened. Marilyn Tiernan of the Coin World staff was a speaker, and the chairman was the ever-pleasant, unflappable Sam Lopresto. NLGers noted in the aisles: Don Bailey, Don Kagin, John Keogh, Walter Breen, Virginia Culver, Kent Froseth, George Fuld, Beate Rauch, Leonard Sterling, Sol Taylor, Mel Wacks, Russ Rulau, Anthony Swiatek and Ted Uhl. There may have been others; the show was busy all four days and not all could be noticed.

This busy-ness was in stark contrast to the extremely low public turnout the following weekend in Los Angeles for the Convention of International Numismatics (COIN), June 7-9.





"....NOR GOOD RED HERRING"

Some reactions to Arnold Margolis'
"Fish or fowl: Just what is the NLG?"

by David Alexander, NLG

I read with considerable interest NLG member Margolis' comments in the March-April NLG Newsletter. The headline reminded me of the New Yorker cartoon of the 1940's, with its rotund military type glowering as his equally adipose wife asks innocently, "But dear, why is a Major neither flesh nor fish, nor good red herring?"

From its inception as a writers' group in 1968, NLG has been something of a numismatic Major. We are not a collector nor collecting specialty organization; we don't limit ourselves to a specific geographical area; all age groups are represented in Guild ranks. By definition, NLG exists to serve writers, publishers and aspiring writers in several directions.

Margolis raises several well considered points. His main thrust strikes at the Guild of the early 1970's rather than accurately at the Guild of 1985.

That the NLG was elitist in origin is undeniable. Only a cursory reading of the first membership requirements will show that the intent was to exclude many applicants. In 1985 we still strive to limit membership to active, published writers, though the basic philosophy is much more generous than in the first years.

True, the cronyism of the early 70's injured the Guild's image, and it is true that to those outside, our group may have seemed a gathering place of not entirely sober dilettantes at ANA conventions. No work may dull poor Jack, but it is probable that the "ours is a fun organization" outlook has had its drawbacks.

What irritates me today, as it did in the early 70's, is the apparent lack of recognition of the serious things the Guild has already attempted. My first presentation before an NLG Writers and Editors Symposium was at the 1976 ANA New York convention. The Symposium was virtually ignored while the Bash made banner headlines. In the years since we have had some extremely significant symposia, including the recent ones arranged by Carl W. A. Carlson. These events have not drawn the praise of the purists nor the damnation of the fun-loving.

Scott Travers recently sparkplugged our first NLG event outside an ANA convention, the very successful New York Authors' Symposium held at the Greater New York Coin Convention in May. No fewer than 13 professionals gave their time. Our new constitution and bylaws adopted last year, reformed competition rules allowing maximum participation and recognition of writers; plus the steady improvement of the NLG Newsletter - are all milestones in a growing organization. It seems extraordinary that these achievements are ignored in favor of a more negative perception.

As to the Clemy Award, a real protest is required. Writers of the stature of Dick Yeoman, Ken Bressett, Eric Newman and Arlie Slabaugh, faithful NLG servants such as Lee Martin and Clem Bailey himself, effective journalists like Chet Krause, Margo Russell and Donn Pearlman, are scarcely "hapless individuals." Nor for many years has any Clemy winner lugged home the Densmore typewriter as evidence of their recognition. This is Old History resurrected with a vengeance, scarcely "today's news today."

NLG in fact has reached a plateau in its development. Perhaps a more rapid progress, a more accelerated maturing might have been delightful, but how about our next ten years? On the drawing boards is a proposal for a series of NLG Writers' Seminars patterned after the ANA meetings for Young Numismatists, to be held in varying locations on east and west coasts, such gatherings designed specifically to bring together established writers, publishers and numismatic journalists so they might give one-on-one counsel

to those wishing to explore their own potential as writers in our field.

I wonder whether the critics will give of their time and talent to launch and help sustain this effort

I believe the coming Baltimore symposium and social gathering will continue the process of growth and improvement already obvious in the Guild? Combined with the real (if overlooked) progress of recent years, it is even less appropriate in 1985 to hold that NLG is merely "a social group which meets once a year to experience a few gags."

>> NLG IS ... <<

by Col. Bill Murray, NLG

NLG is what? My friend Arnie Margolis wants to know. It's a good question, and I wonder how many other members and non-members may have asked. I went back to the March 1984 Newsletter to read the "Amended Bylaws of the Numismatic Literary Guild," and what do you know? There it is in black and tan!

"The purposes of NLG are:

"(1) To foster numismatic writing, photography and related activities through meetings, publications and awards.

"(2) To bring together those interested in the purposes of the organization through meetings, publications and activities."

There you have it, Arnie. That's what we say we are. The next question. "Are we that?"

The operative words are "to foster" and "to bring together." Foster, my dictionary tells me, means - among other things - "...to promote the growth or development of ..."

Bring together means ... oh, you figure it out, or you may call me prepaid at 501-292-3352.

MEETINGS. The Bash is, well ... for fellowship (bringing together) and presentation of awards. The Bash is fun. Let's try to keep it that way. That OK, isn't it?

The annual Writers and Editors Symposium brings together some members of

NLG. Non-attendees at these rather sparsely attended affairs don't know what fostering this bringing together does for us all. NLG members may be better writers than listeners, of course. Attendance has been increasing and last year's symposium found a few of us standing in the small room offered.

A first this year was the NLG-sponsored National Coin Week Symposium at the Greater New York Coin Convention. News reports of this bringing together indicated 50 persons attended. I'm not sure if that counted the 14 writers who symposed, but NLG promoted this activity. I couldn't get down off my Ozark mountainside for the event, but ...

next year?

PUBLICATIONS. NLG offers the NLG Newsletter. Thanks to our good editor, Russ, plus previous editor, Lee, and several great contributors, notably Ted Schwarz and friends, we've all been fostered a bit and maybe even learned a few things about numismatic writing. Cooperation and aid from these folks has sure helped some of us.

AWARDS. Ah, awards, 35 of them presented by NLG in 1984. In the last Newsletter, Director Donn Pearlman suggested the awards be reduced in number, his premise being that so many awards "dilute the prestige of receiving NLG recognition." Perhaps Donn is right. He asked that you NLGers respond by writing letters to the Board. Did you? (Not just you, Arnie, I'm talking to all readers.)

Whether Donn is right or not, NLG has done some fostering for a long time now by rewarding efforts.

Well, Arnie, this is what we are, according to Bylaws and our actions. An earlier set of bylaws, dated 1977, did not even offer a purpose.

As a not-founding member, memory does not afford me the remembrance Arnie offered as original goals and aims of our organization. However, NLG accomplishes its purposes as delineated fairly well. Perhaps you'll ask, "Is fairly well enough?" What else should be done? How, and by whom? Will it require money?

Maybe someone out there knows what NLG really is and what it should be. We're doing some things. Enough?

NLG SALUTES MARGO RUSSELL
ON HER RETIREMENT AS EDITOR
OF COIN WORLD

Margo Russell, editor of Coin World, largest hobby publication in the world, neared the end of four decades as a working newspaper woman when she retired earlier this year. She began her career at age 16 in 1935 on the Sidney Daily News in Ohio, a sister publication of Coin World.

In 1960 - after raising two daughters - she transferred her writing interests to numismatic journalism, when Coin World was founded. She is a member of the Ohio Newspaper Women's Association and has won prizes for her news and feature stories.

In 1970 Margo was named a member of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission coins and medals advisory panel, along with 14 Congressmen and national figures in art, banking and numismatics. She



Margo Russell readying her blue pencil for editorial chores.

was named cochairman of the panel in 1972.

In 1964 she was appointed by Pres. Lyndon Johnson to the U.S. Assay Commission. Later, she and her husband, Marion Russell, editor of the Sidney Daily News, were guests at the White House. During her career she attended several Rose Garden ceremonies.

Margo personally covered major Treasury department news stories at the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco Mints, at the Bureau of the Mint and Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C., since 1960. She has testified in behalf of the hobby-industry-science before House and Senate committees.

A member of major numismatic organizations here and abroad, Margo has lectured on numismatics at M.I.T. and at Purdue and Roosevelt Universities, at state and regional numismatic forums and before noncollector groups.

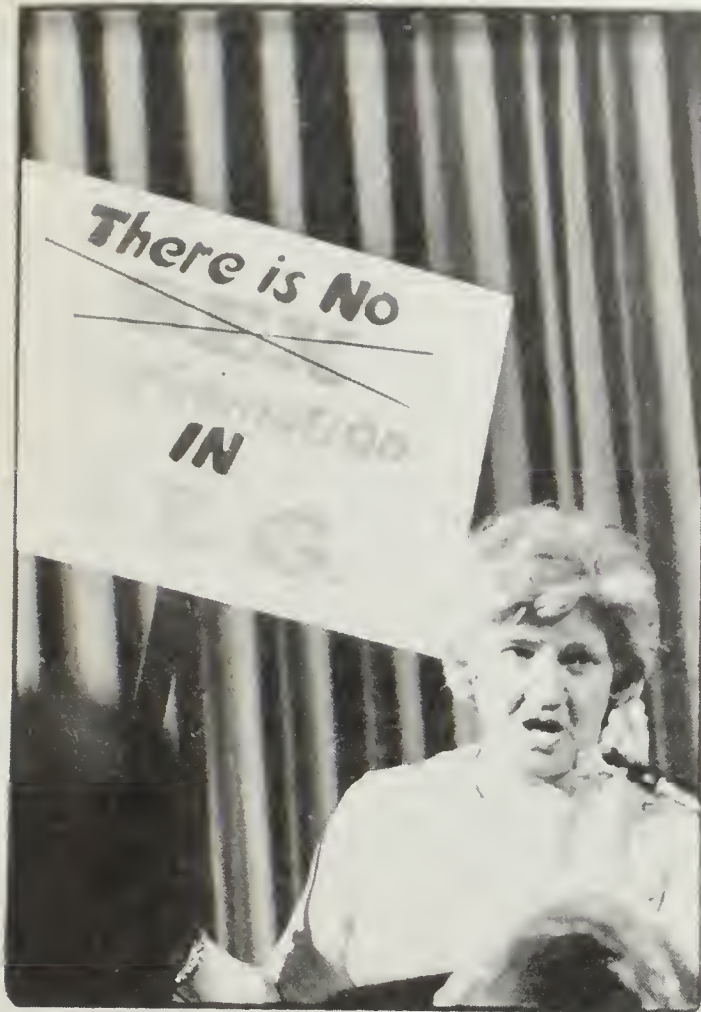
She is a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society and of the Royal Numismatic Society, and was named to the Council of the ANS in 1979 and to the ANS executive board in 1981. She has been named Woman of the Year by a number of numismatic groups, and is a holder of the Numismatic Literary Guild's top Clemy award. She won the ANA Medal of Merit in 1967 and the ANA top honor, the Zerbe award, in 1975. The ANA also named her the Great Lady of Numismatics, a unique honor.

Active in civic and religious affairs, she is a member of Altrusa Club, Beta Sigma Phi, Girl Scouts, First Presbyterian Church of Sidney, Dorothy Love Retirement Community Council and school groups. She has traveled widely in Israel, Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Great Britain and Greece.

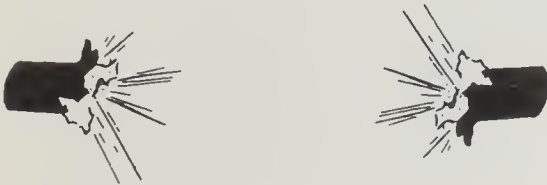
Margo edited the Coin World Almanac and several other Amos Press specialty publications.

The Russells, now both retired, have two grandchildren and reside in rural Shelby County, Ohio.

Margo was an early member of the NLG and has always supported the Guild with song, story and dance as well as the more traditional journalism, as a



Margo holds up a sign to illustrate her remarks before an NLG Bash audience some years ago. She said, "There is no sex - sex discrimination - in NLG." (Or something like that!)



number of scenes from past NLG Bashes accompanying this text point up.

In many respects Margo Russell set the tone for numismatic journalism. She succeeded D. Wayne Johnson as editor of *Coin World* in 1962 and from then until her retirement in early 1985 she often was the first to "break" news stories in the hobby.



"The girls," as they became known to NLG Bash audiences, frolic above in Colonial garb, Roaring Twenties costume, Indian maiden garb (notice the large Peace medals suspended from each neck), in previous Bashes. These original skits featured Margo, Virginia Culver, Betty Medlar, Polly Dodson, P. M. (Pearl Mae) Williams, Eva Adams, Janet Rothert and others over the years. The skits will long be remembered by members who witnessed them.

MEMBERS REINSTATED TO GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Numismatic Literary Guild treasurer Chuck O'Donnell reports that all the persons named below have been reinstated to active membership following arrangement for back dues. (Dropped members desiring reinstatement may send last year's dues to David T. Alexander, Executive Director, P.O. Box 970218, Miami, FL 33197. Extra copies of 1985 Newsletters have been retained for such reinstatements)

F. C. Jewett, Willowdale, Ont.,
Canada

Simcha Kuritzky, Silver Spring,
Maryland

Jimmie N. Lawrence, Johannesburg,
Republic of South Africa

Carl W. A. Carlson, South Salem,
New York

Barry Uman, Pointe Claire, P.Q.,
Canada

TAISEI MONTHLY RESUMED PUBLICATION IN JUNE

The monthly Japanese numismatic magazine, Taisei Monthly, resumed publication with a June, 1985 issue, following a hiatus of 15 months in which publication had been suspended.

Masamichi Oka, president of Taisei Stamps & Coins Co., Tokyo, publisher of the 11-year-old magazine, said: "Taisei Monthly will cover news and articles on world coins with ties to many leading numismatic magazines and organizations and to government mints as done previously. It will also include stamps, medals, coin jewelry, etc. to meet today's collector needs."

The new subscription price was not announced. For further information, interested persons may write: Taisei Monthly, Ohno Bldg., No. 1-19-8 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104, Japan.

SEABY BULLETIN GETS A FACELIFT

Under the direction of new editor Derek Young, NLG, assisted by Peter

Clayton, the 1985 versions of Seaby Coin & Medal Bulletin are taking on a more modernistic, attractive appearance. From the arty cover to the completely renovated contents, the house organ of B. A. Seaby Ltd., London, England, can thus rejuvenate its impact on world numismatics.

Publisher Alexander Cox, new Seaby's chairman, is altering the image of the venerable company (founded 1926) in other ways also, including moving its premises to Cavendish Square, nearer to the auction houses on New Bond Street and the shopping action along Regent Street (and just a short walk from Oxford Circus subway station.)

The April 1985 issue was numbered 799 - reflecting six decades of continuous publication. Single issue price is now 1 pound (\$1.25), while annual subscription is fixed at 9.50 (about \$12). The new address: Seaby Coin & Medal Bulletin, 8 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AJ, England.

DEPRESSION SCRIP CATALOG PUBLISHED

A new 320-page catalog, presenting the first definitive research covering U.S. script issues from the 1930's, has been released by Krause Publications at \$27.50 retail.

"The Standard Catalog of Depression Scrip of the United States" is by acclaimed researchers Ralph Mitchell and Neil Shafer and presents 3,570 distinct issues of states, counties, cities, businesses and individuals in 50 states, plus Canada and Mexico. Market values are given, and 2,025 photos enhance the listings.

At the height of the Depression many communities met payrolls with scrip, and the 1933 Bank Holiday caused many pieces to be emitted to make up the shortage of cash. The introduction gives a monetary story of this period.

The book is available from coin stores and general outlets, or direct from the publisher by adding \$2 per copy for shipping: Krause Publications, 700 E. State, Iola, WI 54990.



SAMPLE NLG NEWSLETTERS FURNISHED TO NON-MEMBERS

Starting in mid-May the numismatic press carried an NLG press release offering one sample copy of the NLG Newsletter to interested members of the numismatic public who furnished first-class postage (39 cents in the U.S.).

This offer was made to acquaint more people with the Guild, its policies and its impact on numismatic writing.

Editor Russ Rulau reports that, to date, copies have been mailed to 25 non-members who requested samples. The cost to the NLG, he reports, has been negligible because extra Newsletters of recent issue have been on hand and requesters furnished postage.

So far as is known, no such offer had been made previously. The May 22 issue of Coin World was especially productive of responses, he reports.

FINLAND WILL KICK THE POLITICIAN HABIT ON NOTES

Finland's national bank announced it intends to drop politicians' effigies from bank notes and replace them with internationally known Finns, such as composer Jean Sibelius and distance runner Paavo Nurmi.

The Bank of Finland in Helsinki said the new faces will appear on the notes beginning in 1986.

BANKERS WITH HEARTS OF GOLD

On the day his wife Serena was to undergo treatment for cancer, William Scholtz of Cudahy, Wis. found himself short of money. So he decided to cash in the silver half dollars he and

Serena had saved over 40 years.

At the First National Bank of Cudahy teller Eileen Dusenbery told Scholtz they might be worth more to collectors. But he said he needed the money right away and she gave him \$251.50, the face value of the coins.

Teller Dusenbery then notified bank president Hal Knuth, who later had the coins appraised. After an auction, Scholtz got a check for \$6,856.

NEEDED: MORE LITERARY LIONS

The fable goes this way: An African child came home from school one day and told his mother of a story his teacher had read to him. It was about a man in the jungle named Tarzan and he was mightier than the lion, whom the child had always thought to be the king of the jungle.

When his mother heard the child's expressions of dismay, she replied: "Always will it be that way, my son, until lions learn to write."

GEORGE WASHINGTON NUMISMATICS SALUTED IN NEW ILLUSTRATED, PRICED CATALOG

The Centennial Edition of "Medallic Portraits of Washington" by Russ Rulau and George Fuld is being released in mid-July. The reference catalogs coins, tokens, medals and counters portraying the Father of his Country; it is a complete revision of the W. S. Baker 1885 reference of the same title.

Within its colorful card covers are 308 pages containing several thousand illustrations, each item priced in up to three degrees of condition. Pattern coins, Indian Peace medals, 19th and 20th century store cards, Masonic pieces, funeral medals, Colonial pieces, decorations, Mint medals and other categories are included, plus lists of medalists and makers of these pieces, and a very detailed index. Copious historical footnotes add to the catalog's utility to collectors and dealers.

The volume retails for \$29.95 and may be purchased thru coin or book stores, at the Baltimore ANA convention, or direct from the publisher, Krause Publications, Iola, WI 54990.

>> DIN FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN <<

Thanks to Beth Deisher and the editorial staff of Coin World for help in putting together the picture salute to



Margo Russell on the occasion of her retirement which is included in this issue. The feature had been planned for an earlier edition,

but the unfortunate accident to her hip in February caused timetables for several events in her honor to be altered.

The future of the South African Krugerrand seems bleak whether a ban on further imports into the U.S. passes Congress or not (at the moment such a ban is before a joint House-Senate conference committee). Reports from the bourse floor at the Indianapolis coin show June 7-9 indicate KR's are being bought back from the public at less than melt price, and Luis Vigdor of Manfra Tordella & Brookes in New York is quoted by the New York Times as saying "...the Krugerrand's premium over its intrinsic value ... has vanished." We can personally confirm that one dealer in the Long Beach show May 30-June 2 accepted \$15 under melt price - each - for two BU KR's!

These developments, we fear, are negative for numismatics, not merely for South African gold coinage. The ripple effect of the KR plunge is already felt in many aspects of our hobby.

Whither goest the Guild? This question is occupying the thoughts of NLGers these days, and we are giving space to all viewpoints on this question. It is, we believe, healthy to discuss such matters openly. Only through member interaction can the Guild remain the viable, pervasive influence for good which its founders envisioned and its members want.

Has YOUR viewpoint been expressed in print? Space is available

The American Numismatic Association is sponsoring a Writers Table at its annual convention in Baltimore, Aug. 20-25, and the American Numismatic Society is once more sponsoring a contact table at that event. Both the NLG and the Token and Medal Society are sponsoring symposia of

interest to our members - both moderated by NLGer Carl W. A. Carlson. We suggest members visit these.

CLEMY IN A CLASS BY ITSELF

Established in the Guild's first year, the CLEMY award was named for Clement F. Bailey, then a writer with Krause Publications in Iola, Wis. The awards of 1968-1973 were in the form of a massive gold-painted Densmore typewriter, one generation removed from the historic Remington number 1 of 1873. In more recent years a lucite block containing a replica typewriter has taken the place of the old behemoth, now reposing solidly at the ANA Museum in Colorado Springs.

Clemy winners have been chosen for their dedication to numismatics, sense of humor, writing ability as demonstrated in publications bearing their name, and commitment to NLG.

Winners are chosen by submitting of names to the past year's winner by members of the Board of Directors. The preceding year's winner makes the award and prepares to announce it at the annual Bash.

Clemy winners since the beginning have been:

1968 Clem Bailey	1976 Chet Krause
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1970 Lee Martin	1978 Lee Hewitt
1971 Margo Russell	1979 Abe Kosoff
1972 Virginia Culver	1980 Glenn Smedley
1973 Maury Gould	1981 Arlie Slabaugh
1974 Eva B. Adams	1982 Eric Newman
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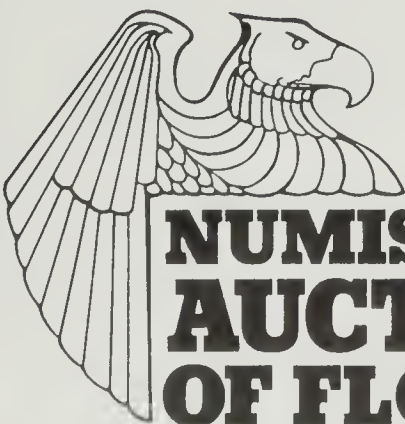
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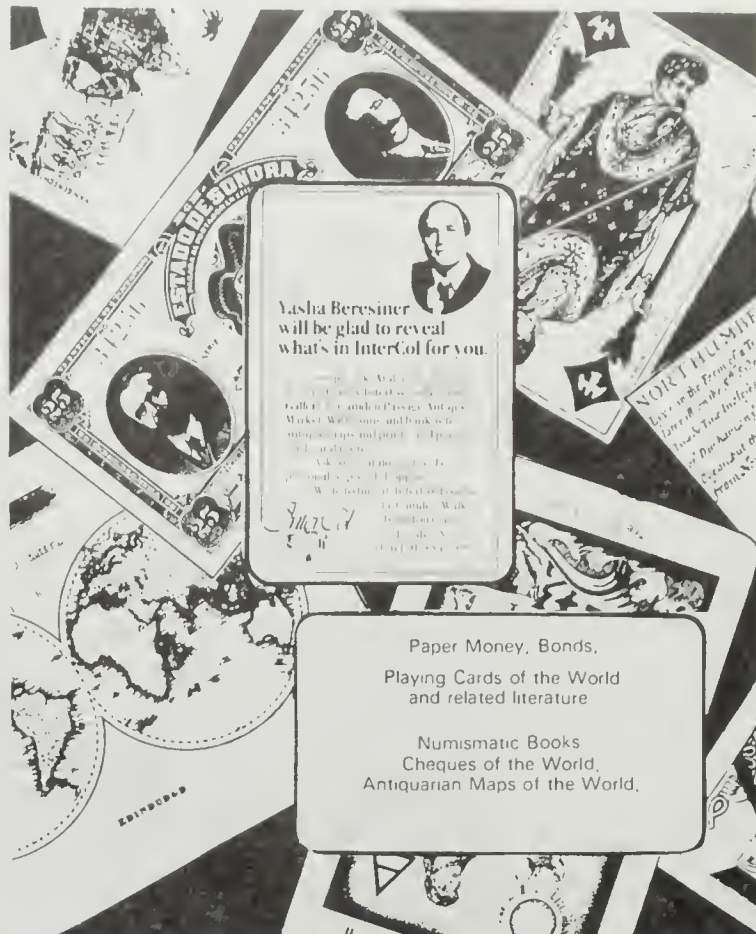
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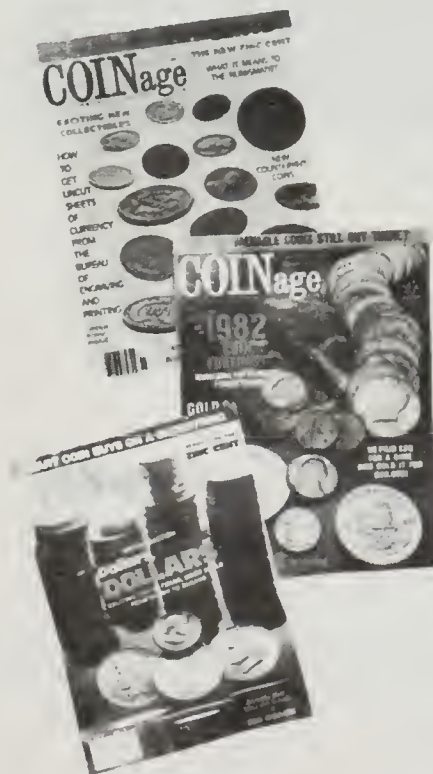


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